

Post-Referral Screening

The Part C Lead Agency may adopt procedures to screen children under the age of three who have been referred to the Infant Toddler Program to determine whether they are suspected of having a developmental delay or disability. Providing screening after referral from a primary referral source is an option for the Infant Toddler Program. If this option is chosen, the screening becomes part of the 45-calendar-day timeline to complete the initial screening (optional), initial evaluation and assessments and the initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting. The 45-calendar-day timeline begins on the date of referral with complete contact information to the Infant Toddler Program.

Post-Referral Screening [34 CFR 303.320]

The U.S. Department of Education, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides a post-referral screening option for states providing early intervention services. The Infant Toddler Program may choose the option to screen, after referral by a primary referral source, to determine whether the child is suspected of having a developmental delay or disability. If the Infant Toddler Program chooses to screen an infant or toddler after receiving a referral, there are specific procedures that must be followed. These procedures do not apply to child find community screenings offered in order to locate children less than three years of age who might need referral to the Infant Toddler Program.

“Screening procedures” means activities carried out by, or under the supervision of the Infant Toddler Program to identify, at the earliest possible age, infants and toddlers suspected of having a developmental delay. These activities are carried out using appropriate screening instruments by personnel trained to use these screening instruments. The five developmental domains must be addressed. These domains are: cognitive development, physical development (including fine/gross motor, vision and hearing), communication development, social and emotional development, and self-help/adaptive development.

It is important to remember that for every child under the age of three referred to the Infant Toddler Program or screened in accordance with the above screening procedures, the Infant Toddler Program is not required to:

- Provide an evaluation of the child (§303.321) unless the child is suspected of having a developmental delay or disability or the parent requests an evaluation; or
- Make early intervention services available to the child unless a determination is made that the child meets the definition of infant or toddler with a disability under §303.21.

Post-Referral Screening Provided by Infant Toddler Program

The Infant Toddler Program may provide screening for infants and toddlers who are referred by a primary referral source to determine whether they are suspected of having a developmental delay or disability. For example, such a referral may be the result of an infant or toddler being involved in child abuse or neglect or affected by illegal substance abuse. Screening shall be provided at no cost to the family.

- 1) The following requirements must be addressed when the Infant Toddler Program proposes to screen an infant or toddler:
 - (a) Provide prior written notice of its intent to screen the infant or toddler to identify whether the child is suspected of having a developmental delay.

- (b) Obtain parental consent before conducting the screening.
- 2) If the parent consents to the screening and the screening or other available information indicates the infant or toddler is suspected of having a developmental delay, the Infant Toddler Program must carry out the following activities:
- (a) Provide prior written notice to the parents of its intent to evaluate the child.
 - (b) Obtain written parental consent to evaluate the child.
 - (c) With parental consent, conduct evaluation and assessments of the child and family.
- 3) If the infant or toddler is screened and the screening or other available information indicates the child is not suspected of having a developmental delay, the Infant Toddler Program must ensure the following occurs:
- (a) Provide prior written notice of this determination to the parent.
 - (b) Provide a copy of the Procedural Safeguards to the family and ensure they understand their rights to request an evaluation.
 - (c) Provide parents with information regarding the Developmental Milestones Program.
- 4) If the parent of the infant or toddler requests and consents to an evaluation at any time during the screening process, evaluation of the child must be conducted, even if the Infant Toddler Program has determined the child is not suspected of having a developmental delay.

Post-Referral Screening Procedure

A screening is used to provide the family with information to determine if the family would like to pursue a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Service Coordinators are responsible to:

- Provide the family prior written notice of the programs intent to screen and obtain written parental consent before screening or evaluation activities are conducted.
- Obtain consent from the family to complete the screener.
- After the screening has been completed, provide the family with prior written notice of the screening results and a copy of the Child and Family Safeguards brochure.
- Explain to the family that it is there right to request an evaluation at any time during the screening process, even if the Infant Toddler Program has determined the child is not suspected of having a developmental delay.

NOTE: A screening may not be used to determine program eligibility, but can be used as a resource for families to help them determine if they want to pursue a multidisciplinary evaluation